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Nursery Rhymes

from

"SING SONG"

by

Christina Rosetti

for

MEDIUM VOICE *and* PIANO

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NEW-BORN

Your brother has a falcon,
    Your sister has a flower;
But what is left for mannikin,
    Born within an hour?

I'll nurse you on my knee, my knee,
    My own little son;
I'll rock you, rock you, in my arms,
    My least little one.

THE ONLY CHILD

Crying, my little one, footsore and weary?
    Fall asleep, pretty one, warm on my shoulder.
I must tramp on through the winter night dreary,
    While the snow falls on me, colder and colder.

You are my one, and I have not another;
    Sleep soft, my darling, my trouble and treasure,
Sleep warm and soft, in the arms of your mother,
    Dreaming of pretty things, dreaming of pleasure.

HOPE

I dug and dug amongst the snow,
    And thought the flowers would never grow;
I dug and dug amongst the sand,
    And still no green thing came to hand.

Melt, O snow! the warm winds blow
    To thaw the flowers and melt the snow;
But all the winds from every land
    Will rear no blossom from the sand.

SKYLARK AND NIGHTINGALE

When a mounting skylark sings
In the sunlit summer morn,
I know that heaven is up on high,
And on earth are fields of corn.

But when a nightingale sings,
In the moonlit summer even,
I know not if earth is merely earth,
Only that heaven is heaven.

THE BLIND BOY

Blind from my birth,
Where flowers are springing
I sit on earth
All dark.
Hark ! hark !
A lark is singing,
His notes are all for me;
For me his mirth:—
Till some day I shall see
Beautiful flowers
And birds in bowers
Where all joy-bells are ringing.

BABY

Love me,—I love you,
Love me, my baby;
Sing it high, sing it low,
Sing it as may be.

Mother's arms under you,
Her eyes above you;
Sing it high, sing it low,
Love me,—I love you.

DEATH-PARTING

'Good-bye in fear, good-bye in sorrow,
Good-bye, and all in vain,
Never to meet again, my dear'—
'Never to part again.'

'Good-bye to-day, good-bye to-morrow,
Good-bye till earth shall wane.
Never to meet again, my dear'—
'Never to part again.'

THE GARLAND

Roses blushing red and white,
For delight;
Honeysuckle wreaths above,
For love;
Dim sweet-scented heliotrope,
For hope:
Shining lilies tall and straight,
For royal state;
Dusky pansies, let them be
For memory;
With violets of fragrant breath,
For death.

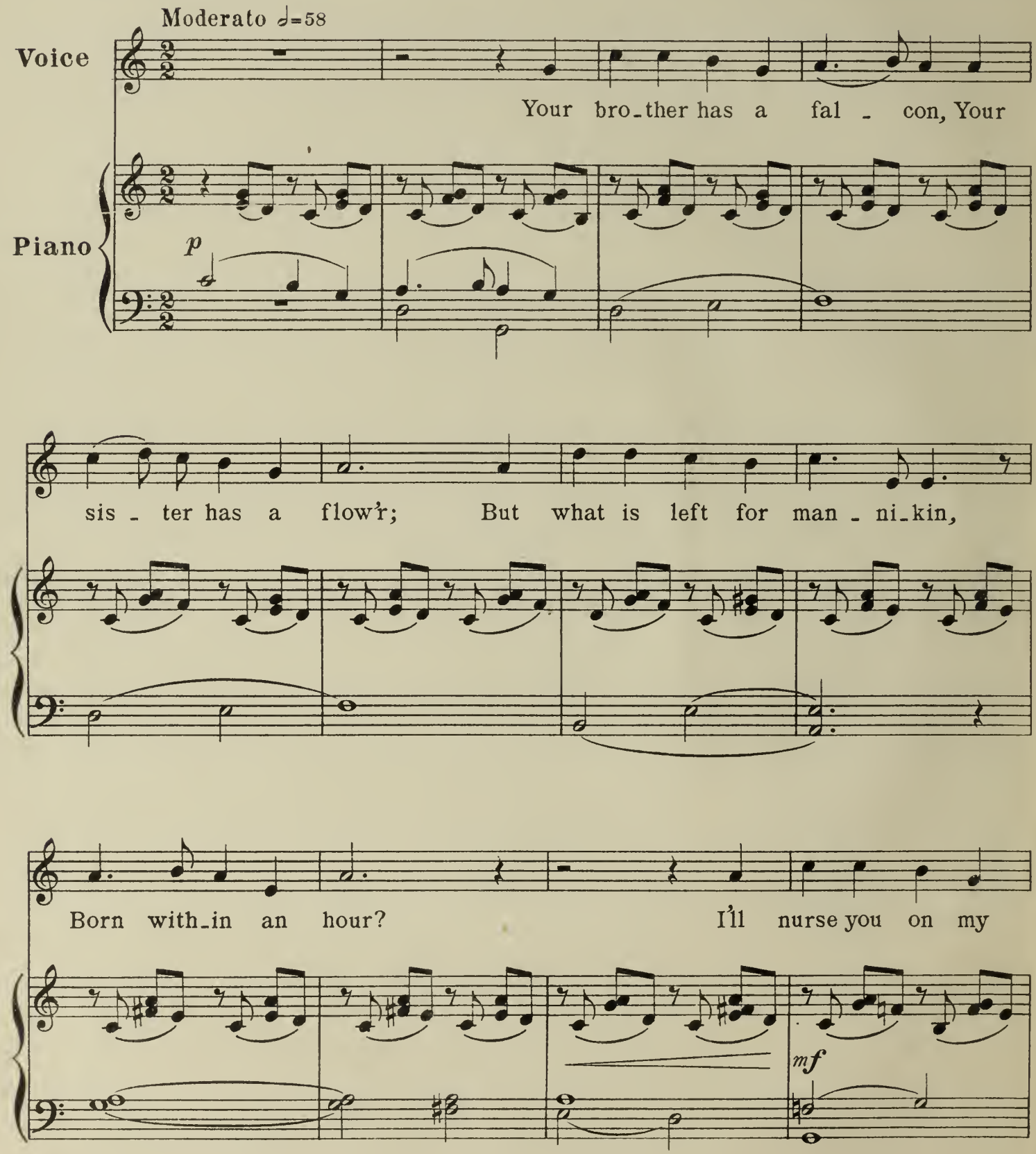
To my sister.

Mother and Child

I

NEWBORN

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI JOHN IRELAND



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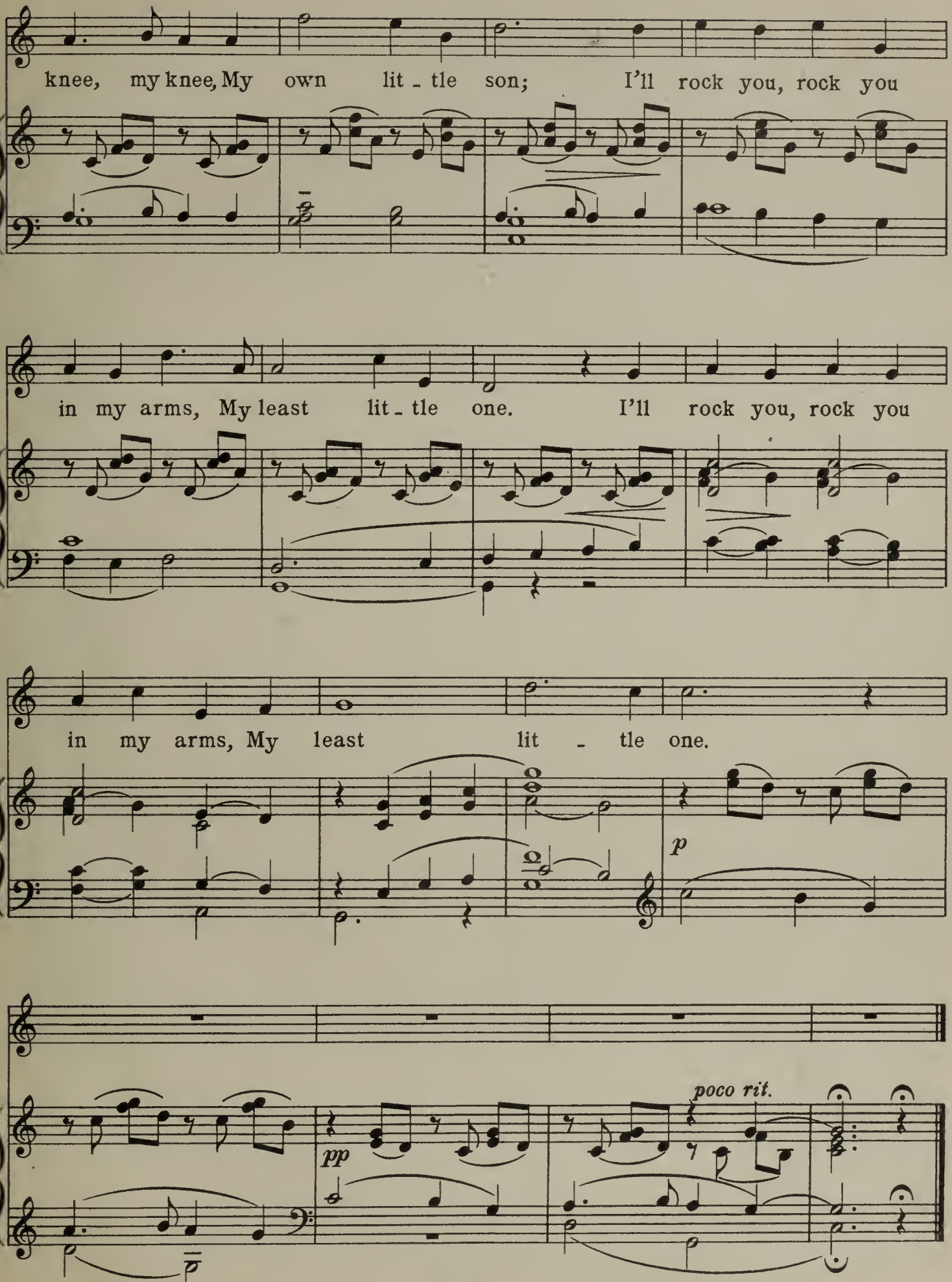
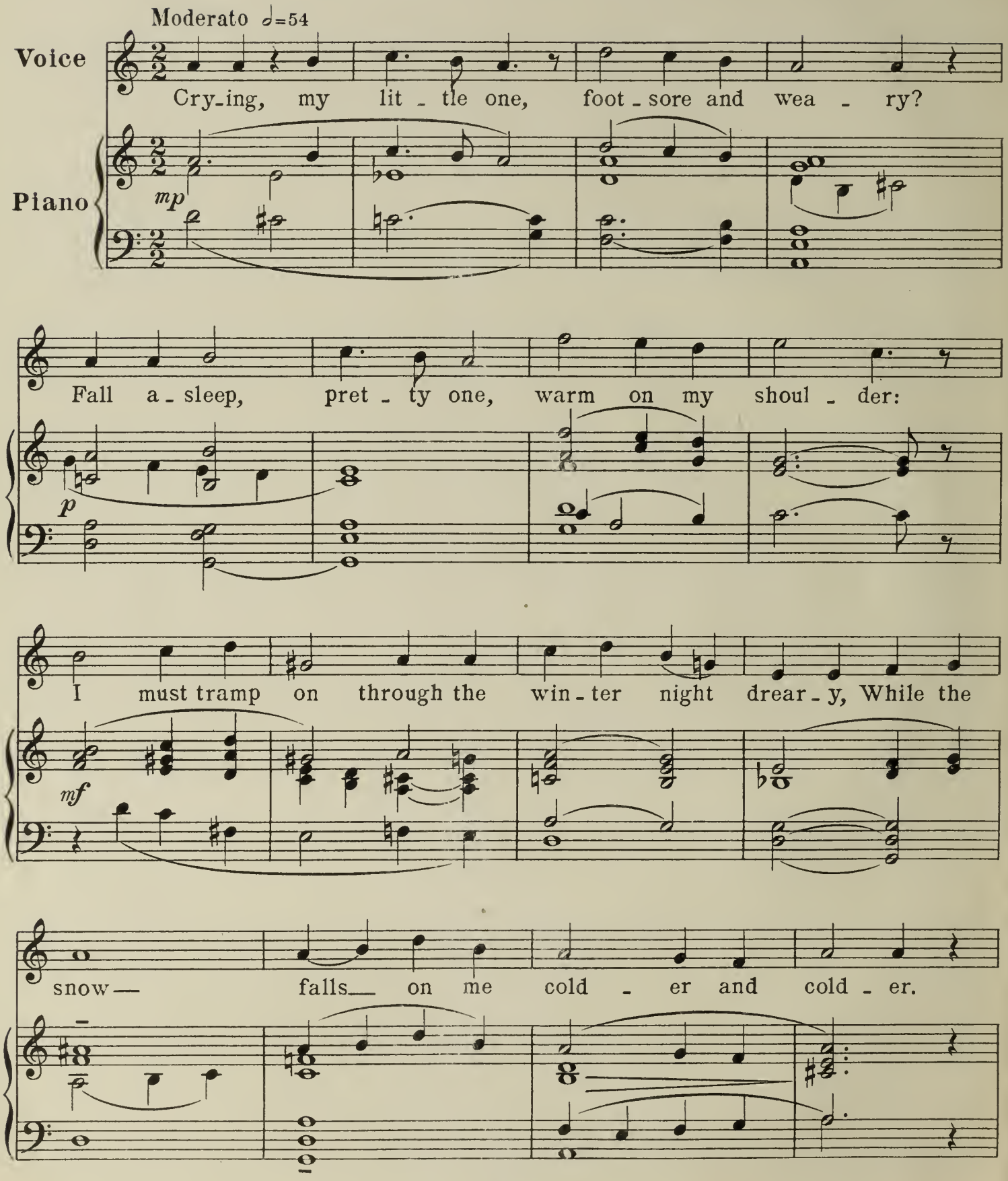
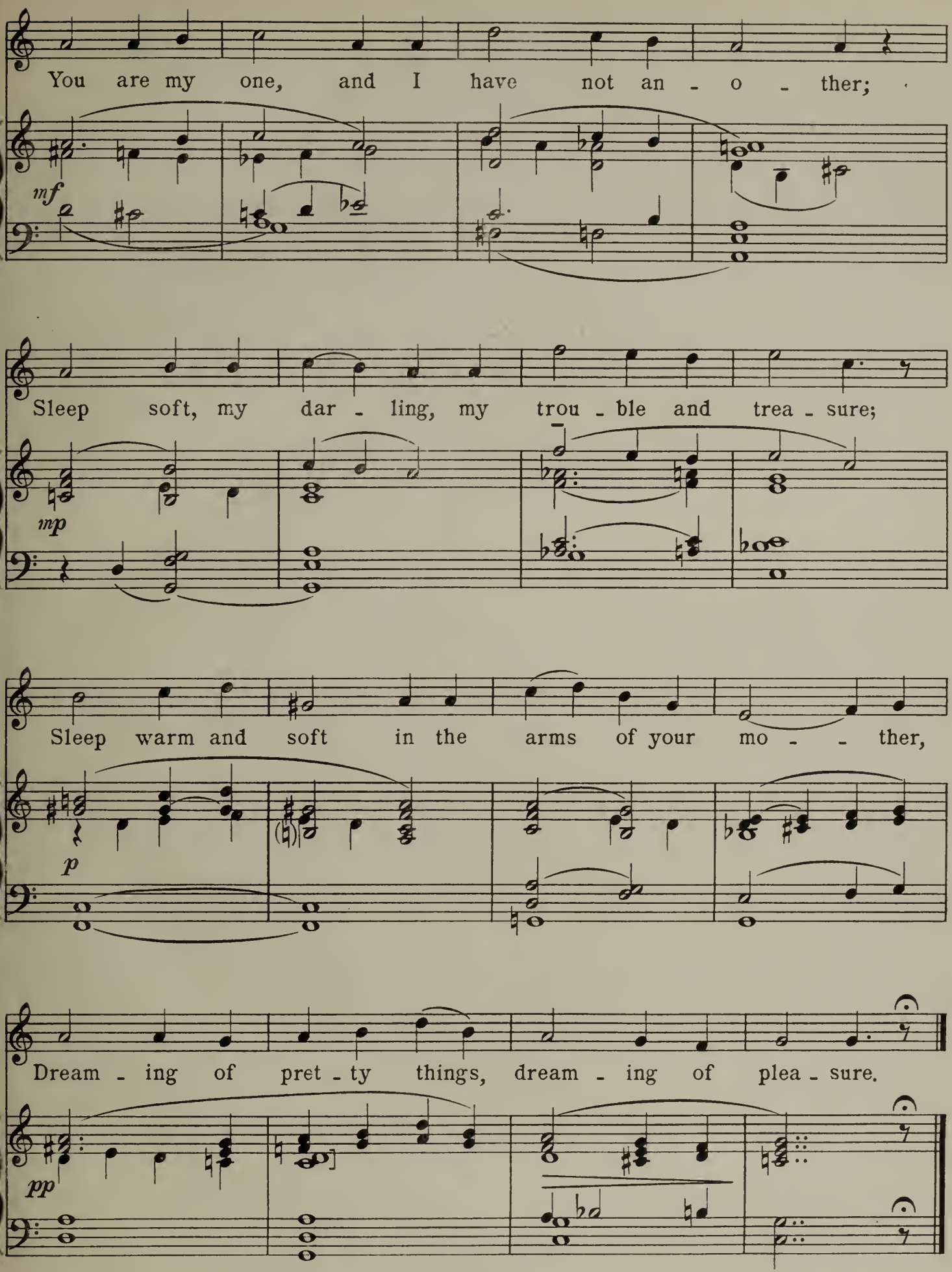

knee, my knee, My own lit - tle son; I'll rock you, rock you
in my arms, My least lit - tle one. I'll rock you, rock you
in my arms, My least lit - tle one.
p
pp
poco rit.

2

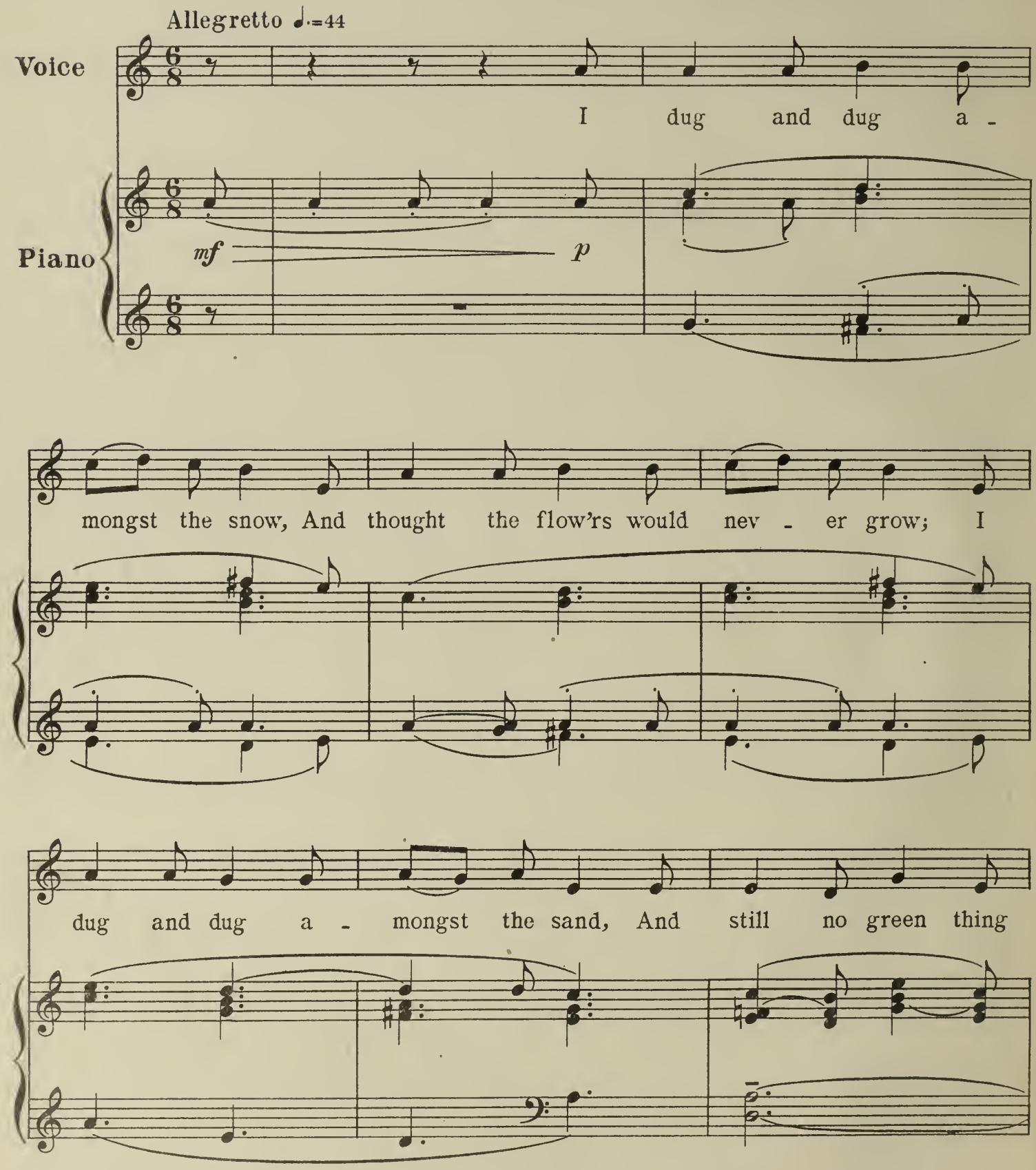
THE ONLY CHILD

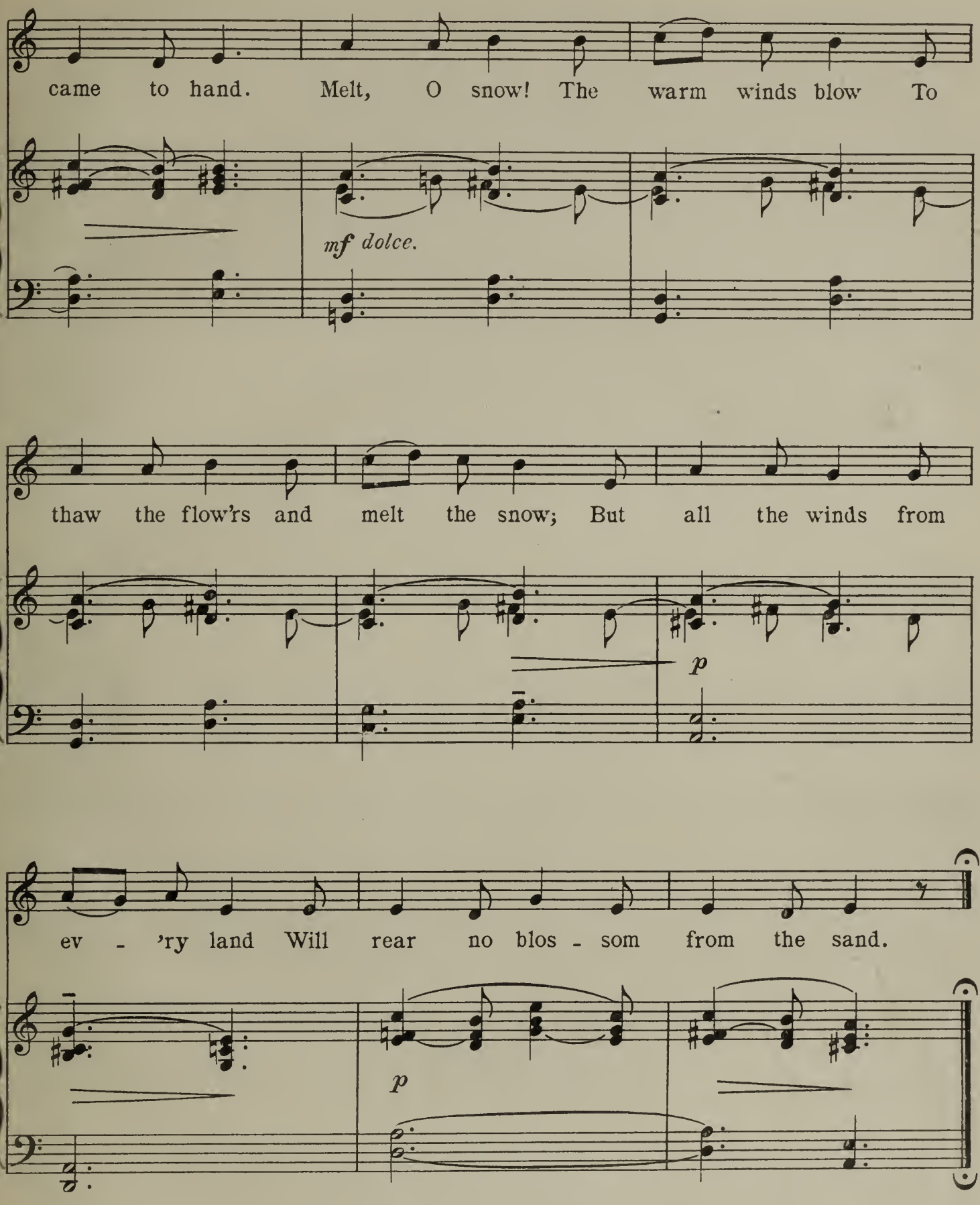



You are my one, and I have not an - o - ther;
mf
Sleep soft, my dar - ling, my trou - ble and trea - sure;
mp
Sleep warm and soft in the arms of your mo - - ther,
p
Dream - ing of pret - ty things, dream - ing of plea - sure.
pp

3

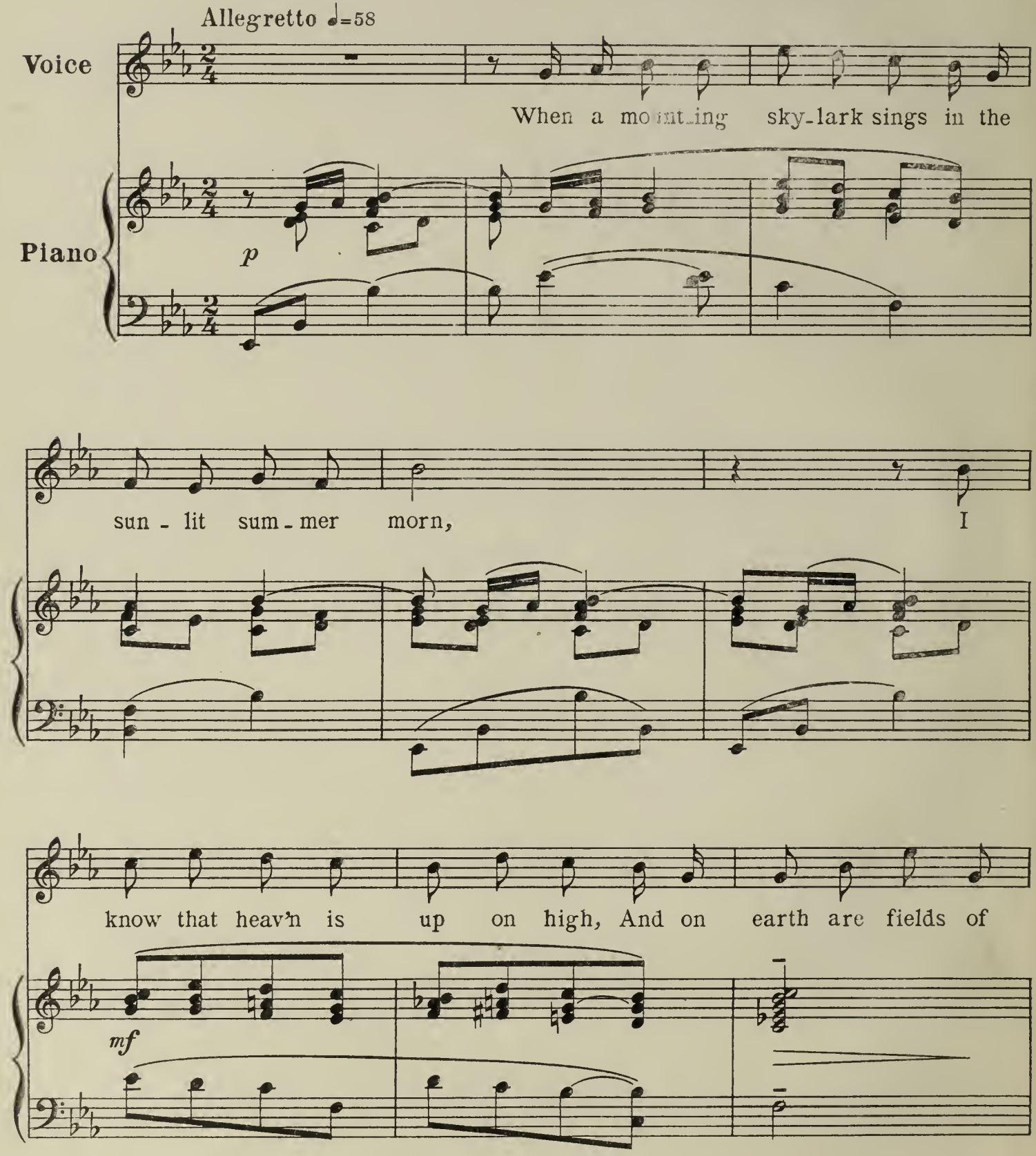
HOPE

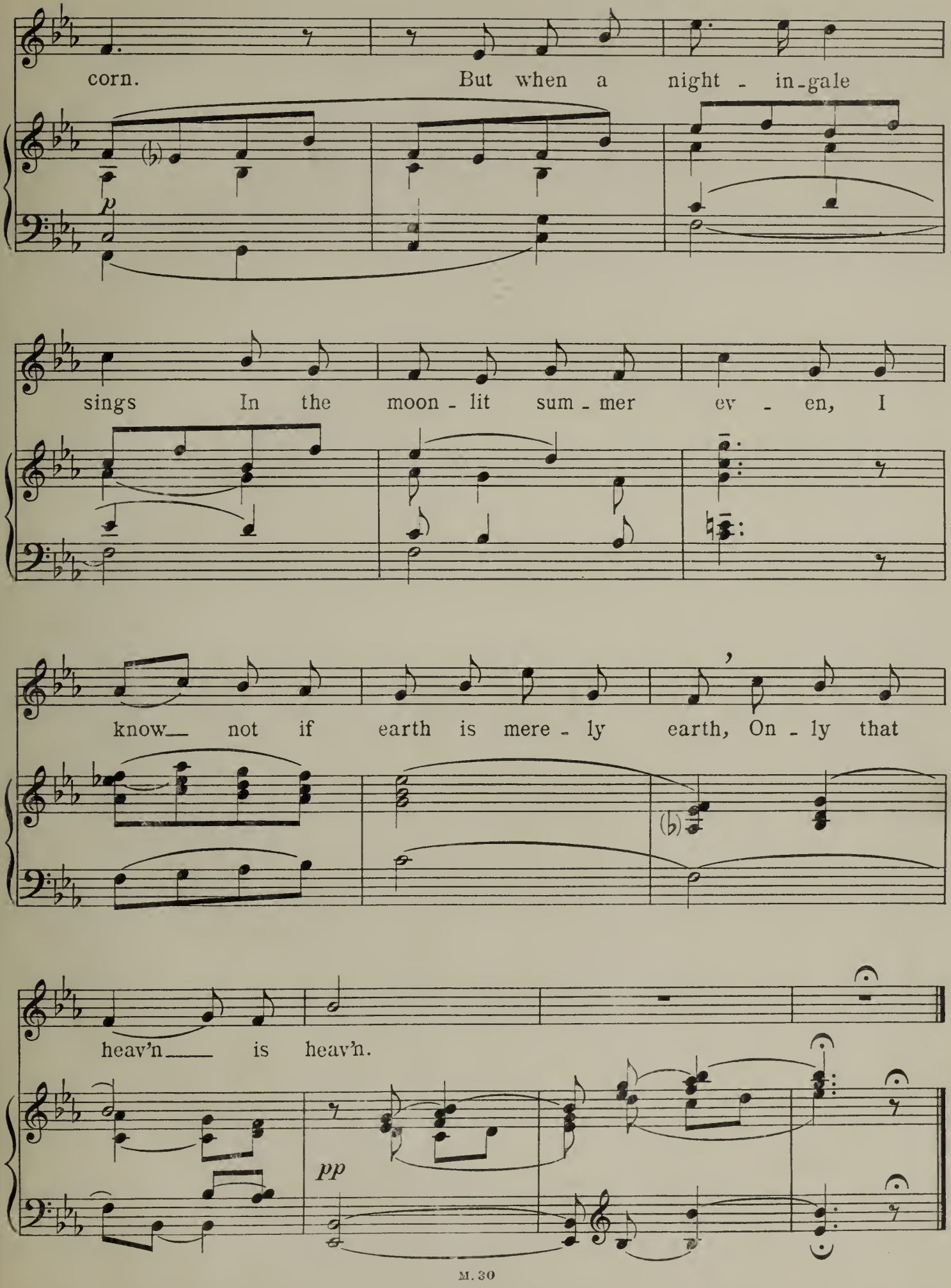

Allegretto ♩.=44
Voice
I dug and dug a -
Piano
mf
p
mongst the snow, And thought the flow'rs would nev - er grow; I
dug and dug a - mongst the sand, And still no green thing


came to hand. Melt, O snow! The warm winds blow To
mf dolce.
thaw the flow'rs and melt the snow; But all the winds from
p
ev - 'ry land Will rear no blos - som from the sand.
p

4

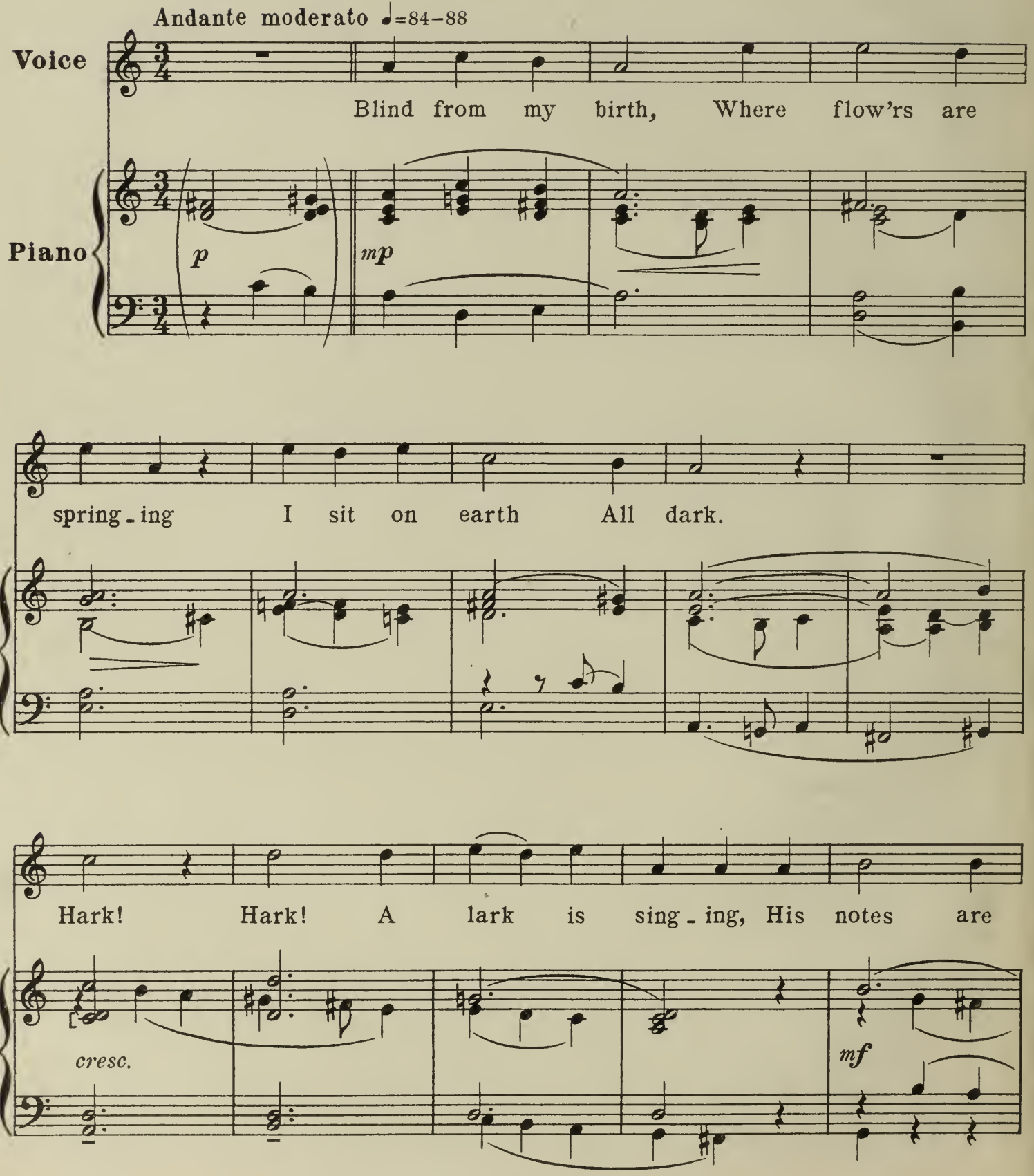
SKYLARK AND NIGHTINGALE

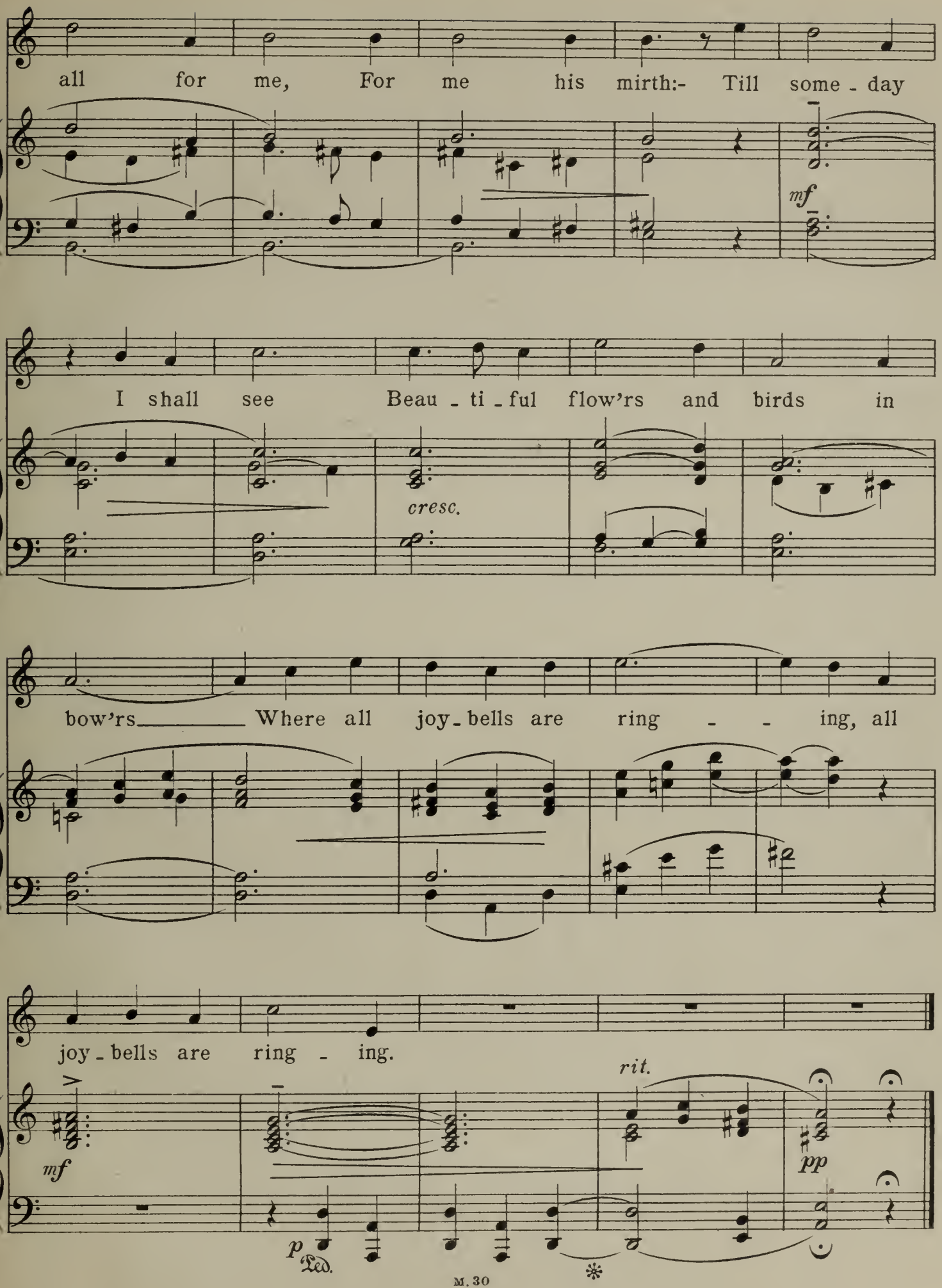



corn. But when a night - in-gale
p
sings In the moon - lit sum - mer ev - en, I
know not if earth is mere - ly earth, On - ly that
heav'n is heav'n.
pp

5

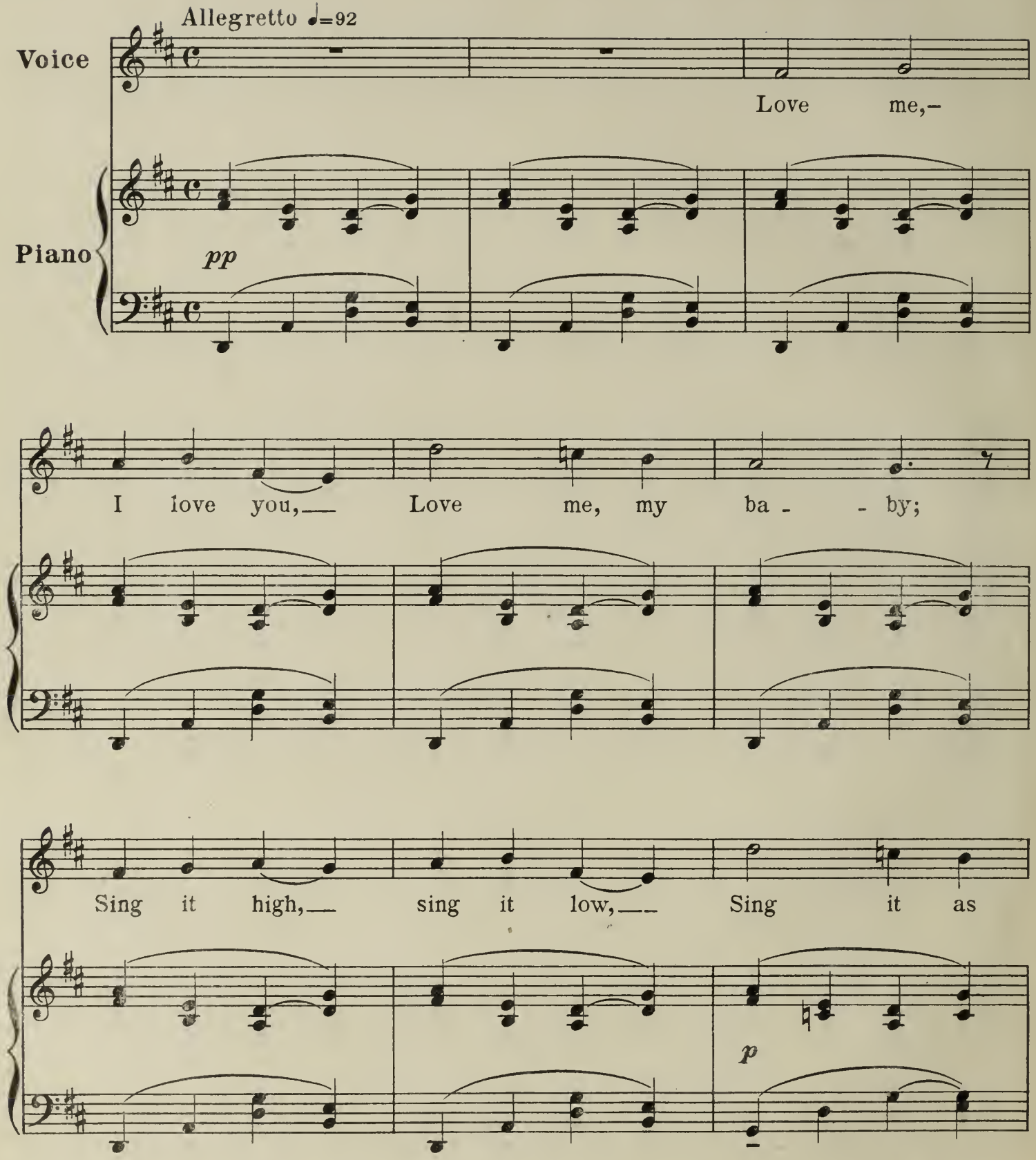
THE BLIND BOY

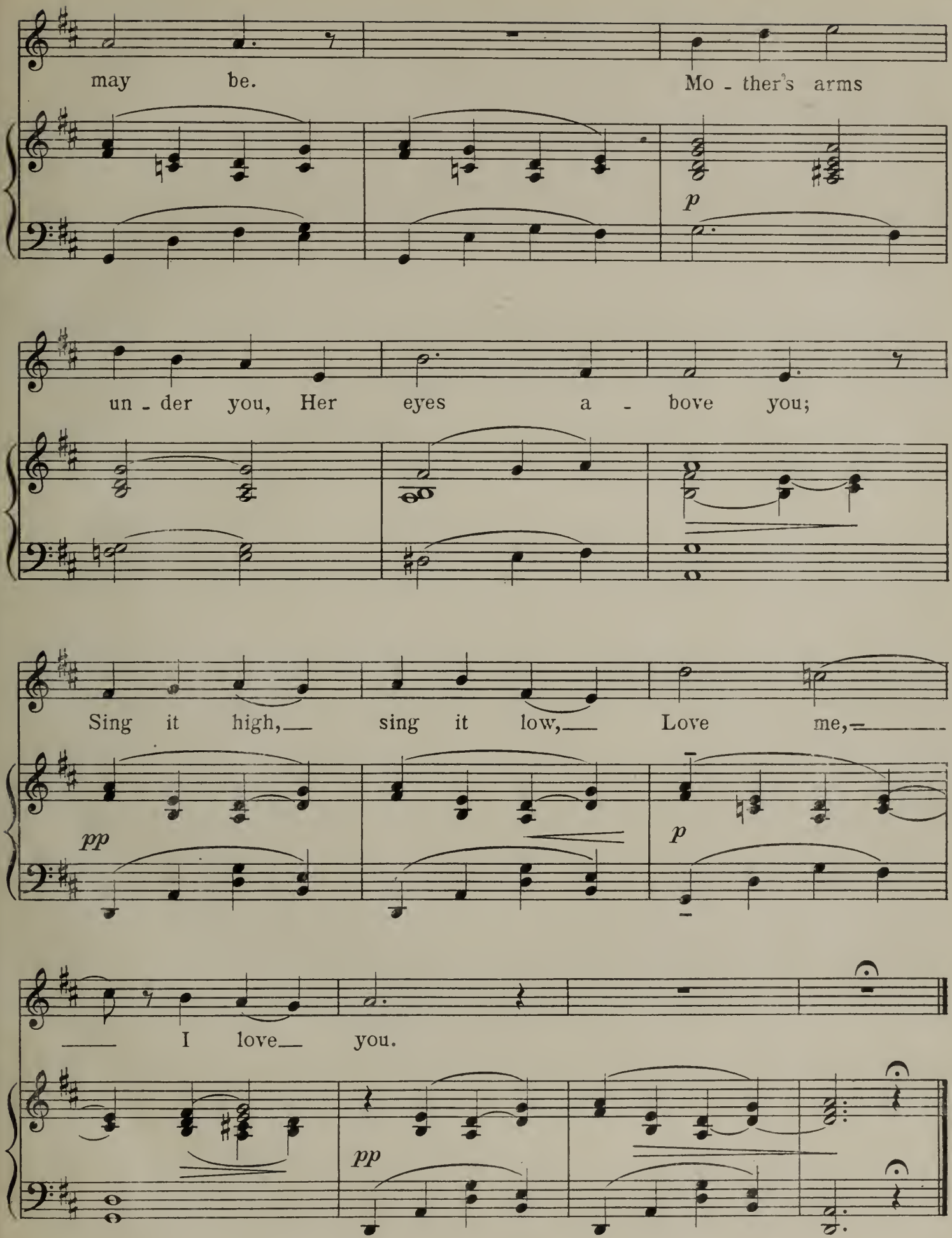



all for me, For me his mirth:- Till some - day
mf
I shall see Beau - ti - ful flow'rs and birds in
cresc.
bow'rs Where all joy - bells are ring - - ing, all
joy - bells are ring - ing.
rit.
mf
pp
p
Ped.
*

6

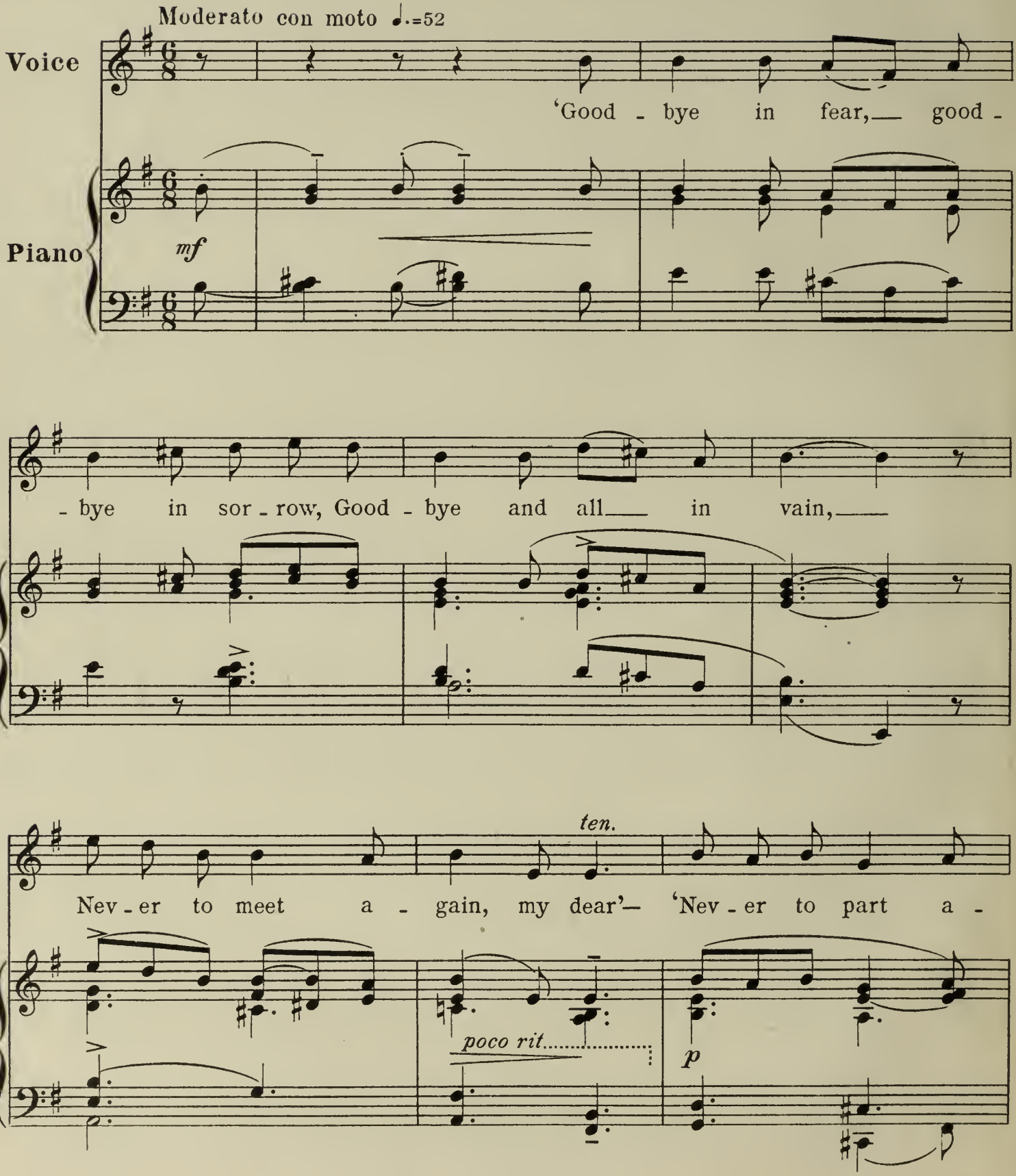
BABY

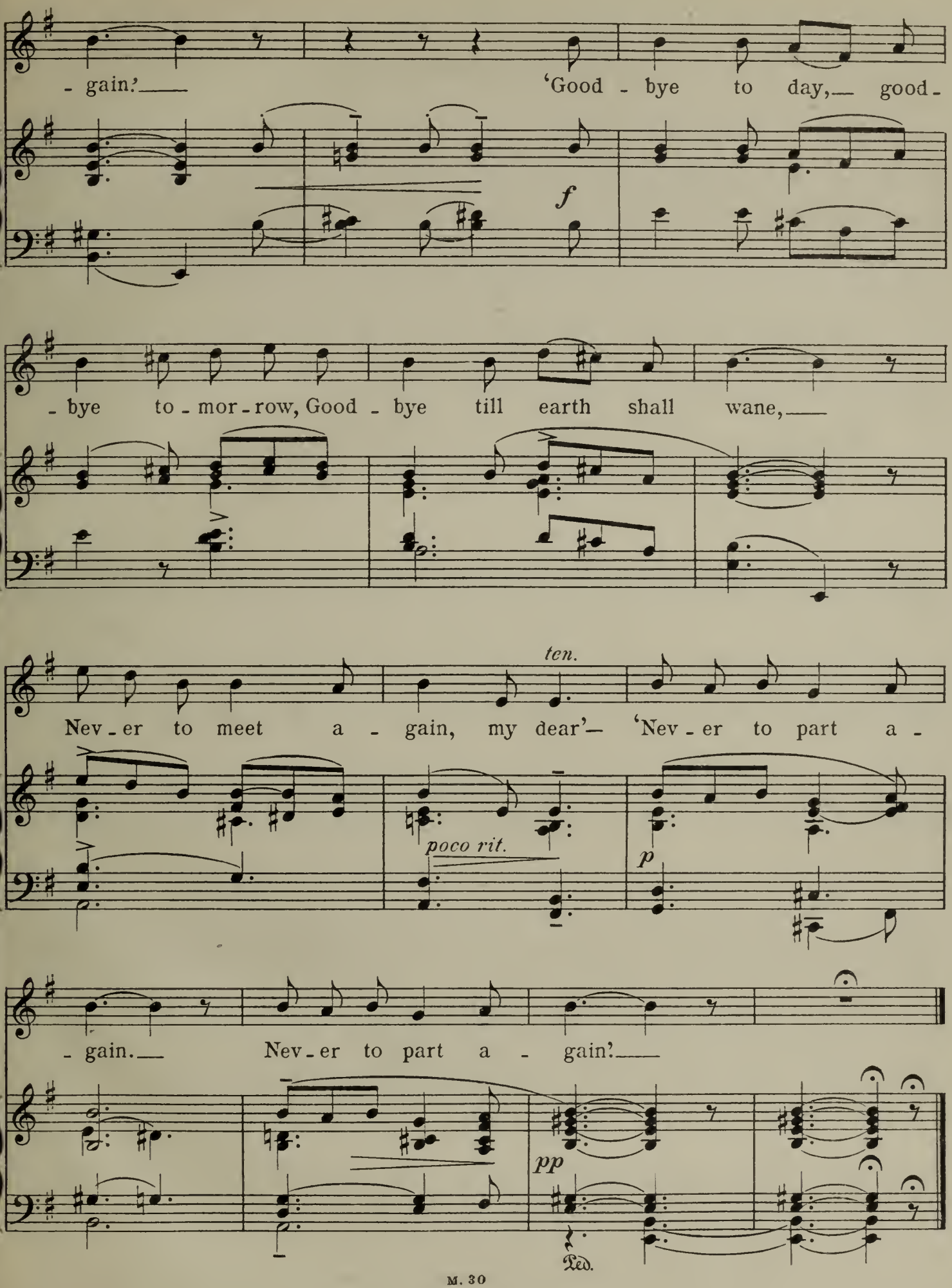

Allegretto ♩=92
Voice
Piano
pp
Love me,–
I love you,— Love me, my ba - - by;
Sing it high,— sing it low,— Sing it as
p


may be.
Mo - ther's arms
p
un - der you, Her eyes a - bove you;
Sing it high, sing it low, Love me,
pp
p
I love you.
pp

7

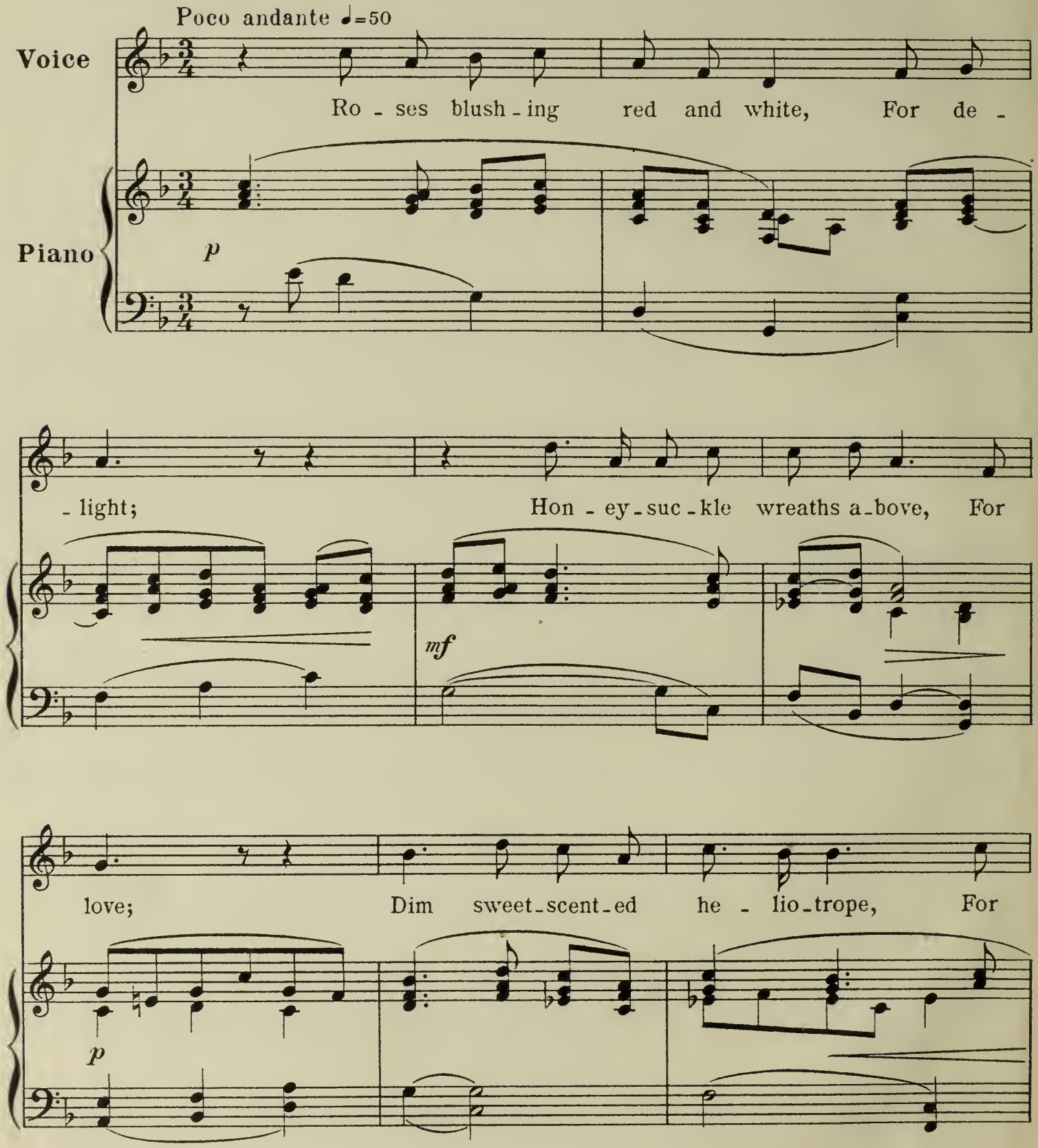
DEATH-PARTING

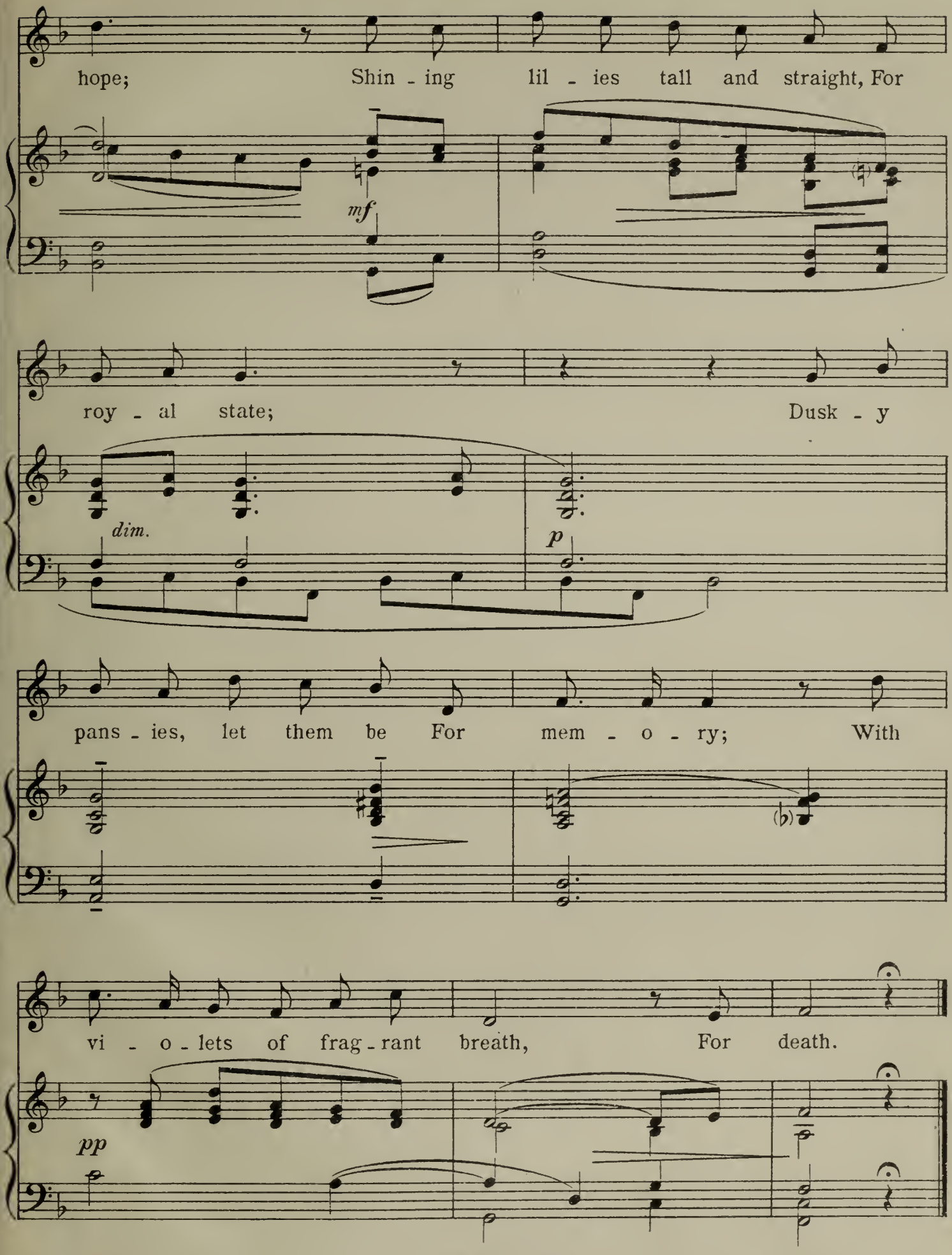



- gain!—
'Good - bye to day,— good -
f
- bye to - mor - row, Good - bye till earth shall wane,—
ten.
Nev - er to meet a - gain, my dear'— 'Nev - er to part a -
poco rit.
p
- gain.—
Nev - er to part a - gain!—
pp
Ped.

8

THE GARLAND




hope; Shin - ing lil - ies tall and straight, For
mf
roy - al state; Dusk - y
dim.
p
pans - ies, let them be For mem - o - ry; With
vi - o - lets of frag - rant breath, For death.
pp

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